4/17/69

Dear Hal,

To the degree I can I try and keep you and Jim informed of as much as I can of what I am doing, who I am in touch with, what I learn. This sort of relationship is essential if we are to help each other. But there has never been any doubt that this has been in strictest confidence, to go no further than the three of you, for what I send to Paul he knows I expect him to make available to you.

It has now come to my attention that you have been carrying around and showing what you should not, under any circumstances, have been carrying with you. I would like you, as soon as you can, to inform me completely about this, what you have shown to whom and in whose presence. I regard this as important. If you knew and believed what I do you'd not have done it to begin with.

From what I have heard, the best I can say for this is that it was foolish, very childish, serving no constructiive purpose. There is every reason to anticipate the possibility of a bad reaction. There is no possibility of any good coming from it, which is more than enough reason for it not to have been done.

Intent is not the important thing. It is not even a factor. I have no doubt of your intent, do not consider it possible you could harbor a bad one. I repeat, that is entirely immaterial.

I have been frank with you people about my suspicions of some of your friends. That I have been proven right is not the essential thing. You know the attitude of some of your people to me. This makes flashing my most confidential stuff to such people even less than inexcuseable. You can have your own friends, as we all do, trust those you want to, with or without solid reason, in the presence of ample reason for doubt or without, but you have no right imposing your own judgement above mine where I am involved.

I have not kept secrets from any of you. I have entrusted you with what I have trusted but a single other person. If I have not sent you more, it is not mistrust, not selfishness, just the utter impossibility of doing it. I do not want this relationship to change. I do not want ever to feel that I cannot have limitless faith in the trustworthiness or judgement of any of you. However, without your word that you will under no circumstances show anything I send to anyone, never take it from your place, I will have to change it. If there is someone you think should have or be aware, ask me. As you know, I have sent an awful lot of stuff to an awful lot of people when I deemed it desireable. I am quite capable of showing to those I want to what I have. You had every reason to assume that those I didn't I did not want to have it.

Candor is essential among friends, especially those thrown together by the kind of things that unites us. Its very nature, however, should have imposed better judgement on you, especially, in a case where you knew my opinions and desires. In addition, you know my sensitivity in such matters, know some of the consequences to me and to us of the improper use of my material used by those who did not understand it and without my sanction.

If you have not done this, as I have every reason to believe you did, please so assure me and you'll have my apologies. If you did, will you for Christs

sake tell me WHY?

There has never been a time when the work we do has not imposed strict concepts of security upon us. There also has never been a time when it has not required that we run calculated risks, that we might, on occasion, have to deal on a basis of trust with those instinct told us might not be trustworthy. I have done so, and it is possible I have erred in doing it. I was aware of it when I did it. It was not idle vanity that determined the decision.

As we advance in our knowledge, we get into more sensitive areas, and the self-imposed restraints must be stronger. This is so essential, so obviously a minimum requirement, it should need no emphasis or elaboration. With your political understanding, there is even less excuse for you.

I add two personal things: you know that the only possible chance I have of getting out of the frightening hole in which this work has buried me is by the sale of my work. Your giving it, under any circumstances, jeopardizes this. You know my plight and situation. Idrop it there. Also, I have been the recipient of meaningful threats. The police take it so seriously they are studying the voice (I got one on tape). This was a sophisticated thing, not a casual, impulsive notion by a nut. Again, I say no more.

This disturbs me much, Hal. You know the consequences of misplaced judgement and idle vanity in the recent New Orleans fiasco. Can you not learn from it? Need it be dinned into you that we cannot engage in petty personal luxuries, impart no unnecessary trusts, and be constantly aware of the existing demonstrations of both the most inconceivably bad judgement and other untrustworthiness of those with whom we come in contact, socially or on work?

There is no one in the LA area with whom I am now in contact. There is no reason for me to be. As of now, I know no one working actively whose judgement I trust. Without exception. Those I trust are doing no work. I have my own reasons. You have yet to find me wrong on such matters. That you have not had my experiences is to your good fortune but it in no way alters the inescapable meaning of these experiences, of which you know in sufficient detail. One of the people you showed what at best was none of his business has gone out of his way to hurt me, to your knowledge. How and why he did it are of no significance. But one thing is: that he did, Nothing else, counts. This you knew. Yet you put him in a position to do the same things all over again. He is capable of it. Next time you are here, I want you to read that entire file, of correspondence and consequences. It has done me/us immeasureable harm and cut off certain excellent, ireeplaceable sources of information, aside from the personal harm it has done me. You will find there is but a single representation of the truth, regardless of what you may have heard. The fact is all recorded and is beyond dispute or different interpretation.

Stop and think, Hal: Idle chatter is enough. He is one of the most chronic blabbermouths - and he is also a coward. He further has bad relationships, of an intimate nature, with those he knows he should not and cannot trust(I'll show you his own letters on this!). They continue, despite his certain knowledge. One of those with whom he associates has threatened to sue me - God speed the day! But you should know this. While I cannot prove it, I think he has also turned off some of my sources. Again, there is evidence; you can see it.

I am sorry to feel that I must write you so, but I do. Please, as soon as you can, write me in complete detail, telling me what you showed, to whom, where and in whose presence. It may be very important, more than you think. Sincerely,